Not “don’t be evil” anymore

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mo0nsgreenthumb 5h

Just read an article from Texas, their AI data centers consume 463 million gallons of water while the rest of the population is told to take shorter showers since there is a drought 🙃 how is this sustainable?

Nevermind that they also cause sound pollution.

DianaStuder 31m

iNat explained on the other threads. They already have a (deliberately) small footprint for running CV. Working thru iNat comments is an even smaller volume of data.

(I am in Day Zero Cape Town - still choosing a smaller water footprint. Using rain tanks not mains now in winter, and flushing with shower water year round)

Vermfly 20m

Probably dropped some language that is autoflagged.

JeremyHussell 2m

> mo0nsgreenthumb:
>
> Just read an article from Texas, their AI data centers consume 463 million gallons of water

This seems like a surprising number, so I searched for some articles reporting that number and started tracking down their sources, and their sources' sources, etc.

The figure was for a two-year period, across 54 data centers in San Antonio. It's about a quarter of a percent (1 in 400) of commercial use in San Antonio, and commercial use is in turn about 30% of total use in San Antonio (commercial + residential + public).

The number also lumps together potable water and recycled water (non-drinkable water, mostly the output of water treatment plants taking residential waste-water as input). From the sources, about 5/6ths of the water used was recycled water.

Tracing back through the articles, the number got

changed from 2 year's use by 54 customers to 1 year's use by the two biggest data centres, and then got directly compared to the state's *daily* use to produce a wildly incorrect percentage. **https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Telephone_game**

One of the saner, more factual articles: **https://www.expressnews.com/hill-country/article/data-centers-medina-county-microsoft-rowan-water-20239617.php**

replying..

Suggested Related	Replies	Views	Activity
Observations "hiding" in other observations; Share your examples! 191	498	20.1k	3d
Is there a way to mass download photos from your observations on iNat? 4	12	505	6d
What's the worst pic you uploaded to iNat? 351	564	16.4k	6d
What would make AI on iNaturalist tolerable to you? 6 ai	72	2.2k	6d
Neurodiversity and iNaturalist! 26	456	26.2k	Jun 17

There are 54 unread and 14 new topics remaining, or browse other topics in